

A Time Line of Policing the Railways.

Compiled by PC Kevin GORDON

For the sake of continuity the term “BTP” for British Transport Police includes the British Transport Commission Police

- 1676 Lord Guilford visits Newcastle and notices how colliers use “rails of timber” to assist horse-drawn wagons from the pit to a nearby river. This is the first mention of railways in the UK.
- 1796 Sir Patrick COLQUHOUN publishes a paper “The Police of the Metropolis” recommending a centralised Police Force for the United Kingdom.
- 1803 The Surrey Iron Railway opens between Wandsworth and Croydon. This is the first railway sanctioned by Parliament; horses pull its goods wagons.
- 1824 The Vagrancy Act passed to regulate the many homeless men who had returned from the Napoleonic Wars.
- 30th June 1826 A Regulation of the Stockton and Darlington Railway refers to the police establishment of “*One Superintendent, four officers and numerous gate-keepers*” This is the first mention of Railway Police anywhere and is three years before the Metropolitan Police Act is passed.
- 29th September 1829 The Metropolitan Police Commence duty.
- 15th September 1830 The opening of the Liverpool to Manchester Railway by the Duke of Wellington. The event was marred by the death of the Rt. Hon William Huskisson, the local MP, who fell under an engine. He was the first person to be killed by a Railway Train.
- 22nd November 1830 Minutes of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway refer to their “Police Establishment”
- 5th September 1831 Minutes of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway read “*The Sub-Committee recommend to the board to raise the wages of the Police-Men along the line, from 17/6 to 20/- per week – their hours are long, from 14 to 16 hours per day, and their duty one of great responsibility*” “*In addition to a winter coat – Watch Boxes to be provided where required for shelter against the inclemencies of weather.*”
- 14th November 1831 Minutes of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway read “*The Police-Men on the line are too late at their posts in the morning, very few being arrived when the first engines with Goods pass along the line*”
- 1833 ‘The Railway Companion’ referring to Liverpool and Manchester Railway says “*The Company keep a Police Establishment who have station houses at intervals of about a mile along the road. These stations form depots for passengers and goods from or to any of the intervening places. The duties assigned to these men are to guard the road, to prevent or give notice of any obstruction and to render assistance in the case of any accident occurring, and to do this effectively, to keep up a continued line of communication.*”
- 8th February 1836 A Section of the London to Greenwich Railway is opened between Deptford and Bermondsey. This is the first railway in London.
- 24th July 1837 The Electric Telegraph is first demonstrated after wires are laid alongside the railway line between Euston and Camden Town.

1838	The Railways (Conveyance of Mails) Act requires railways to carry mails on the direction of the Postmaster General.
1838	An Act of Parliament (1&2Vict.cap.80) entitled "An Act for the payment of Constables for Keeping the Peace near Public Works" requires Railway Companies to employ Constables to keep order when railways are being built.
21 st March 1838	The first section of the London to Southampton Railway is opened. A later account states " <i>Policemen were more numerous than any other class of (railway) servant; they acted as signalmen and ticket collectors and were stationed at regular intervals along the line. Their uniforms consisted of a swallow-tail coat, dark trousers and a tall hat with a leather crown.</i> "
17 th September 1838	The London to Birmingham Railway is opened. It took 20,000 men five years to build at a cost of £50,000 per mile.
10 th October 1838	Disturbances at Rotherham require 40 Artillerymen and "Two Parties of Police" including Special Constables sworn in during the day to keep the Peace after English navvies attacked Irish workers.
1839	Two watchmen at Southampton are sworn in as Constables. The Southampton Docks Police Force is formed.
14 th – 18 th October 1839	A "military force" is required to disperse over 500 fighting navvies during the building of the Chester to Birkenhead Railway
1840	The Regulation of Railways Act is passed. It includes the offences of railway staff being drunk on duty, impeding or obstructing engines and endangering the safety of persons on the railway.
17 th December 1840	John GREEN, a ganger on the Edinburgh to Glasgow Railway is murdered by two Irish navvies during the building of the Edinburgh to Glasgow Railway. The offenders were hanged on a scaffold placed alongside the line and 100,000 people attend the execution.
1844	The first public telegraph is opened. It runs alongside the railway line and connects the Admiralty in London with its naval base near Portsmouth.
1 st January 1845	Sgt William WILLIAMS of the GWR Police becomes the first person to arrest a person using technology. Alerted by a telegraph message sent from Slough, he arrested John TAWELL after he stepped off a train at Paddington. TAWELL had murdered a girl at Slough.
March 1846	Two Navvies working on the line near Edinburgh are arrested for stealing a watch and lodged at the Police Station in Gorebridge. 300 fellow "excavators" march to the Police Station, kill the local constable and release the prisoners.
June 1846	A PC SHAW is killed by a train whilst attempting to remove a woman from the line at Balcombe, Sussex.
1848	During this year Britain came close to a revolution with the "Chartists" pressing for parliamentary reform. The London and North West Railway ordered 20,000 Constables truncheons from the Woolwich Arsenal and the manager of Wolverton Depot signed every one of his staff to be Special Constables.
10 th – 21 st July 1851	The Battle of Mickleton. During the building of the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway, work was stopped due to fighting by Navvies.

- The Riot Act was read several times and it required a contingent of troops to restore order.
- 15th May 1855 The Great Gold Robbery. Gold Bullion locked in a box, locked in a safe in a guards compartment of a train is stolen whilst en-route between London and Paris. The thieves replace the gold with lead shot and re-seal the boxes so the crime is not discovered until Paris. It is an “inside” job and three men are convicted and transported to Australia for Life. One of the bullion boxes is on display at the National Railway Museum at York.
- 1857 William GLENISTER, an Inspector of the Great Western Railway Police is appointed the first Chief Constable of the Hastings Police.
- 4th November 1858 PC John SCUDDAMORE of the Bute Docks Police falls into a dock and drowns. The Jury deliver a verdict of manslaughter against the Dock Company due to its poor safety record but this is overturned by the Coroner.
- 10th January 1863 The worlds first underground railway opens between Farringdon Street and Paddington.
- 9th July 1864 The First Railway Murder. Thomas BRIGGS, a banker is robbed, beaten and thrown from a train on the North London Railway. The Offender, Franz MULLER is later identified by his distinctive hat.
- 14th November 1864 Franz MULLER is executed. As the lever is being pulled he is asked to admit the crime. His final words are “Yes I did it”
- 1865 A train crashes over a viaduct at Staplehurst in Kent and 10 people are killed. Rails had been taken up to repair and no warning or look out had been placed. Charles DICKENS was on the train and assisted in the rescue of trapped passengers. The foreman of the plate-layers was later convicted of manslaughter.
- 12th December 1874 The Duchess of Dudley has £50,000 worth of jewellery stolen from her at Paddington Station. It was in a case that had been left on a platform as she boarded a train.
- 1874 A Metropolitan Railway Police Inspector travels to America to arrest and bring home the Secretary of the Railway Providential Savings Bank who was suspected of fraud.
- 18th June 1875 A Colonel Valentine BAKER joins a train at Liphook, Hampshire and proceeds to harass a young lady. She is so concerned by his advances that she leaves the train whilst in motion, hanging on to the side of the train. Her screams alert other passengers and the train is stopped. BAKER is arrested and later receives a fine of £500 and 12 months imprisonment.
- 22nd January 1879 Charles PEACE, the infamous Victorian Burglar and murderer is transported to Sheffield by Train to be examined by Magistrates regarding a murder. During the journey he jumps out of the train window in a last ditch effort to escape. The fall nearly kills him and he is recaptured laying alongside the line.
- 1877 A South Eastern Railway Policeman, Vallentine SALVAGE and eighteen other officers send a petition to the General Manager against the company’s “No Moustache” rule claiming that “*the wearing of moustachios is a protection against the inclemency of the weather*”
- 1877 The Great Western Railway Act is passed which gives its Police Officers jurisdiction on and within half a mile of the railway. It also requires then to

	produce their Warrant (card) on demand with a penalty of 40 shillings for failure.
28 th December 1879	The central section of the Tay Bridge collapsed carrying with it a train and over 70 people with it. There are no survivors.
13 th September 1880	A bundle of explosives is placed on the track between Bushey and Watford with the purpose of blowing up a train carrying Grand Duke Constantine of Russia. This is the first record of terrorism on the railway.
1880	The Chief Superintendent of the North Eastern Railway Police resigns to take up the position of Chief Constable of The Hull Police.
27 th June 1881	Mr GOLD robbed, murdered and thrown from a train on the London to Brighton train. The offender Percy Mapleton LEFROY was apprehended by the Brighton Police but later released into the custody of a Metropolitan Policeman from whose custody he managed to escape. The Daily Telegraph made newspaper history by publishing a portrait of the wanted man for the first time. He was found guilty and hanged at Lewes Prison on 29 th November 1881.
2 nd March 1882	Roderick MacLEAN attempts to shoot Queen Victoria as she is entering her carriage at Windsor Railway Station. MacLEAN, who had a previous conviction for attempting to wreck a train was found insane and detained in a mental institution.
30 th October 1883	An explosion probably caused by dynamite damages the line between Charing Cross and Westminster Underground Stations. A further explosion near Praed Street Station (Paddington) injures 62. These are the first instances of terrorism on the Underground.
27 th February 1884	A Fenian (IRA) bomb wrecks the cloakroom at Victoria Station and two people are injured. The following day searches reveal similar devices in the cloakrooms at Paddington, Charing Cross and Ludgate Hill Stations.
2 nd January 1885	A bomb explodes on the Metropolitan Railway at Gower Street.
1889	The Regulation of Railways Act created offences of "Travel Fraud" which are still in use today.
1890	The Forth Railway Bridge is opened. It took 4,600 men (of whom 57 were killed) and 50,000 tons of steel to compete it.
November 1889	Judge BRISTOW is severely injured when he is shot by a man at Nottingham Station.
1893	Vandalism is not a new phenomena. The Great Eastern Railway report that they had 199 carriage windows smashed by stones in just one month.
29 th September 1895	Murder of Detective Sergeant Robert KIDD of the LNWR Police at Wigan. He disturbed thieves breaking into a goods wagon and was beaten to death, probably by his own truncheon.
11 th February 1897	The body of Elizabeth CAMP found on a train on its arrival at Waterloo. She had been robbed and beaten around the head. Her murderer was never traced.
23 rd August 1897	A Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Policeman, PC Alfred MARSH is killed during a violent struggle to eject two drunken sailors at Fleetwood Docks.

17 th January 1901	George PARKER shoots two passengers on a Southampton to London train, killing one, William PEARSON a farmer from Winchester. His second victim, although shot and robbed, managed to call out as PARKER left the train at Vauxhall and a “hue and cry” ensued. He was cornered and arrested.
10 th August 1901	A LNWR Detective, Thomas HIBBS is found dead in a canal at Curzon Street Goods Depot, Birmingham. His handcuffs was left beside the canal and his truncheon was found floating in the canal. At the subsequent inquest the jury return a verdict of unlawful killing and recommend that railway police officers should patrol in pairs. His attackers are never caught.
1905	London Underground electrifies its railway.
24 th September 1905	Bound and gagged, the body of Mary MONEY is found in Merstham Tunnel in Surrey. Her brother Robert identifies her body, but her killer is never brought to account. Possibly a coincidence but 7 years later Robert MONEY shoots dead 6 people in a house in Eastbourne.
14 th March 1907	As a female vagrant is ejected from Leeds City Station she turns and pokes her umbrella in the face of PC George LEEFE. The wound becomes poisoned and the officer dies a few days later.
26 th November 1907	Superintendent DOBIE and three other NER Police Officers from Hull Docks visit Ghent in Belgium to study the Police Dogs in use there. The following year Police Dogs are used at Hull. The first occasion they are used in the UK.
25 th March 1908	Two railway constables observe a man taking newspapers from the platform at Romford. He is arrested but the Romford Magistrates dismiss the case as the man actually had permission to take them. The man, LAMBERT then sued the Great Eastern Railway for false arrest. The railway’s defence is that the constables are servants of the Crown and NOT the railway. The jury agree, and the constables are fined £10 for false imprisonment.
18 th March 1910	John NISBET a cashier for Stobswoob Colliery was shot in the head on a train between Newcastle and Alnmouth. Despite very suspect identification evidence John DICKMAN, an acquaintance was arrested and found guilty. He was hanged on 10 th August 1910.
February 1911	Captain HORWOOD becomes the Chief Officer (Superintendent) of the 325 strong North Eastern Railway Police. He completely reforms the Force, improving pay and conditions and introducing better training and social and sports clubs for the officers. He later becomes the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.
14 th February 1913	PC Edward BROOKS is required to resign for <i>“having a woman on railway premises”</i>
8 th January 1914	A six year old boy is found dead under the seat of a train on the North London Railway. He was examined by Dr (later Professor) Bernard SPILSBURY who discovered he had been strangled. The boy was discovered to be the son of John STARCHFIELD who was later arrested for his murder but was found “Not Guilty” at the Old Bailey.
22 nd May 1915	Two troop trains collide and catch fire at Quintinshill, near Gretna Green. 227 people are killed and 224 injured, making this Britain’s worst railway disaster. The accident was caused by a signalman’s error.

20 th December 1917	The first policewomen are sworn in on the North Eastern Railway. Women Police were previously employed on the Great Eastern Railway and Great Western Railway
1919	The Police Strike. Mainly affecting London and Liverpool.
12 th January 1920	Two Railway workers joining a train at Polegate in Sussex find the body of a nurse, aptly named Miss Florence Nightingale SHAW. She had been beaten and was forensically examined by Dr SPILSBURY. Despite ten people being arrested, nobody was convicted of the crime.
1921	The Railways Act amalgamates over a hundred separate railway systems (most with their own Police Forces) into four groups: The Great Western Railway, the London and North Eastern Railway, The London Midland and Scottish Railway and the Southern Railway. Each of these has a Police Force headed by a Chief of Police.
May 1926	The General Strike. It is probable that some Railway Police did strike as some personal records for officers are endorsed "General Strike – Remained Loyal" perhaps indicating that some did not?
6 th May 1927	A trunk containing the dismembered body of a woman is left in cloakroom at Charing Cross Station. Laundry marks identify her as Mrs BONATI and a man, John ROBINSON is later arrested for her murder which actually took place opposite Rochester Row Police Station.
6 th December 1933	PC EVANS (the great uncle of a serving BTP Officer) is disciplined and loses one days pay for " <i>allowing Frenchmen to gather periwinkles on the foreshore</i> " at Newhaven Harbour.
17 th June 1934	Another trunk murder, this time in Brighton where the torso of prostitute Violet KAYE is found at the left luggage office in the station. Her legs and feet are recovered three days later having been deposited in a suitcase at Kings Cross Station. A London gangster Tony MANCINI was arrested for the crime but acquitted at court.
19 th August 1934	PC Alfred HAYNES was a Southern Railway Constable based at Brighton and on this day was on duty at Bungalow Town Halt near Shoreham Airport. The small station was crowded because of a nearby air display and as he attempted to clear the line of passengers was struck and killed by a train.
6 th March 1936	PC George CRADDOCK (Crewe) is disciplined for " <i>peering into the Royal Coach</i> "
September 1938	The body of a baby is found on a railway line between Putney and Barnes stations in south west London. The mother of the child, Marguerita EASTWOOD is later arrested and charged with murder having admitted dropping the child from a moving train. Railway Police Officers play an important part in the investigation. A death sentence is commuted to Life Imprisonment.
26 th July 1939	An IRA bomb explodes in the Left Luggage Office at Kings Cross, killing a Scotsman and injuring his wife and 14 others.
27 th July 1940	A dog handler, PC William RACE is struck and killed by a train whilst patrolling the line near West Hartlepool Station. His dog attacks the railway staff who go to his aid.

1 st August 1940	PC Leonard BELL is on duty a Norwich Thorpe Station during a German air-raid. He is killed as he attempts to shelter under a railway wagon.
14 th October 1940	A German bomb fractures a water main and an underground river which floods into the tunnels at Balham Underground Station. 68 people are drowned. It takes three months to clear the site and recover the bodies.
1941	This year for the first time the amount of goods stolen from the railways exceed over £1 million in value. In fact, between 1940 and 1952 the total amount of theft on the railway exceeds the total amount reported to all police forces in England and Wales combined!
22 nd April 1941	PC John COCKWILL died as a result of an air-raid on the GWR Docks at Plymouth where he has been patrolling.
8 th May 1941	Two LNER Officers are killed whilst on duty during an air-raid on Hull Docks. Another officer (PCDOBSON) tackles fires started by incendiary bombs as further bombs are still falling. He rescues several people including a trapped fireman. For his bravery he is later awarded the B.E.M.
April 1941	PC William BRERETON is awarded the B.E.M. for gallant conduct. During an air-raid on Bricklayers Arms Goods Depot in South London he saved fellow PC ROWING who was trapped inside a burning building.
21 st October 1943	A Committee of Chiefs of the Railway Police agrees to set up a joint Railway Police Training School.
1 st January 1944	Superintendent J RIDD of the South Wales Docks Division of the force is awarded an M.B.E. in the New Years Honours List.
July 1946	First courses run at the Training School, St Cross, Tadworth, Surrey.
4 th November 1947	D/Sgt Robert CAMERON (Birmingham) single handedly prevented the theft of £4,000 of whisky from a Bonded Warehouse at Burton. For his courage he was later awarded the B.E.M.
October 1948	The first edition of the staff magazine "The Railway Police Journal" (Later the British Transport Police Journal) is published.
24 th September 1948	Maud COOMBS appointed a Detective Constable at Manchester. The first record of a female BTP detective.
17 th December 1948	The Railway Police Training School at Tadworth is officially opened by the Commissioner of the City of London Police.
1 st January 1949	The British Transport Commission Police created. The Chief Officer of Police being Mr W.B. RICHARDS M.V.O.
January 1949	The first residential course is held at Tadworth.
1950	The first female BTP Sergeants were appointed when WPCs SNELL (Paddington) and BARRETT (Liverpool Street) were promoted.
7 th March 1950	During the state visit of the French President, the BTP were, for the first time, entirely responsible for the policing of the journey from Dover and at Victoria Station.
30 th March 1950	A BTP officer at Tonbridge Goods Yard in Kent discovers a discarded opened mailbag. Among the items left in the bag was a piece of cheese in which teeth marks had been left. The officer went to the local station where

he had cause to question a man in the waiting room. Noticing his irregular teeth, he arrests the man and when compared with the bitemarks on the cheese they are found to be the same. On arrest he says “You are too clever for me – if I had just nicked the money you would not have caught me. 15 months imprisonment.

- 22nd December 1950 Nancy OGILVIE is strangled in a train toilet between Aberdeen and Leuchars Stations. The alarm is raised by passengers when they hear screaming and the murderer, her boyfriend Charles CAMERON, is immediately detained.
- May 1951 First Detectives Course held at Tadworth.
- 22nd August 1952 Geoffrey DEAN a booking hall clerk at Ash Vale near Aldershot is found dead at his place of work. He had been stabbed and money was stolen from the safe. Another railwayman, John ALCOTT is later convicted and hanged for his murder.
- 8th October 1952 Three trains collide at Harrow and Wealdstone station in North London when a driver missed a signal in fog. 111 were killed and 349 injured.
- June 1953 First Detective Sergeants Course held at Tadworth.
- October 1953 The BTP Journal announces the first arrest made in the force using a “walkie-talkie” radio.
- October 1953 Detective Sergeant E. STEVENS (South Lambeth) is made the Mayor of Barnes.
- 12th June 1953 150 BTP Officers drawn from all over the UK line Cheapside in the City of London for the Coronation Celebrations of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.
- November 1953 Collar and tie introduced for Constables and Sergeants to replace the “High Collared” tunics.
- 14th July 1954 The Queen reviews the Police at an inspection attended by representatives of all UK Police Forces. 2 Inspectors, 3 Sergeants and 73 Constables represent the BTP.
- July 1955 The Queens Gold Medal for Essay Competition, open to all Police Officers within the Commonwealth is won by a BTP Officer: Superintendent L. JAMES LL.B and Barrister-at Law.
- 9th September 1955 Three BTP officers are attacked whilst attempting to arrest a gang stealing from a good wagon at Carlton Loop in Lincolnshire. One is beaten by his own truncheon and another, PC NORTON has a metal hook embedded in his head. All three later receive a Queens Commendation for Brave Conduct.
- 1st January 1956 Colonel N. McK. JESPER, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., E.R.D. becomes the second “Chief Police Officer” for the BT Police.
- 2nd February 1956 PCs CLUNY and MOYER of the London Transport Police are prosecuted for the false arrest and imprisonment of a man they had arrested for Gross Indecency at Gloucester Road Underground Station. They are found guilty and fined £350 each. The Police having to pay £1,250 damages.
- 7th February 1956 PC Alex WATERLAND is stabbed in the back whilst questioning two suspicious persons at West Hartlepool Good Depot. Two German sailors later receive 7 years imprisonment for the assault.

29 th November 1956	PC Michael JAMES is killed by a goods train whilst patrolling at Birkenhead, Liverpool.
June 1958	Mr P.L. SMITH, the Chief of Police, London Transport is awarded the Queens Police Medal in the Birthday Honours List.
24 th May 1957	The Murder of a Polish Countess, Teresa LUBIENSKA at Gloucester Road Underground Station. It is suspected that she had been stabbed by “Teddy Boys”
March 1957	The B.T.C. commission report to examine if there should be a separate Police Force for the railways. Sir Alexander MAXWELL, an Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office and Mr W. JOHNSON an Inspector of Constabulary, conclude that a separate force is essential for the railways but make recommendations to modernise the force.
December 1957	90 people killed and 173 injured when a train passes a signal in fog and hits another at Lewisham in South London.
28 th February 1958	A criminal investigation by the BTP, which led to the Chief Constable of Brighton being suspended, concluded at the Old Bailey. Officers investigating thefts of tobacco from the railway were thwarted by Brighton CID officers tipping off the suspects. Two Brighton CID Officers were imprisoned for 5 years for conspiracy.
7 th July 1958	Arthur WEST, Previously the Chief Constable of the Portsmouth City Police is appointed the first Chief Constable of the British Transport (Commission) Police.
29 th August 1958	The first Police Cadet Course held at Tadworth.
28 th November 1958	General Order Number 1 published by the Chief Constable, Arthur West from his office at 222, Marylebone Road, London NW1.
1 st December 1958	The London Transport Police cease to exist and become a Division of the BT Police.
25 th January 1960	Whilst chasing a suspect at Edinburgh, PC Walter McMILLAN falls from a wall and dies as a result of his injuries. His colleagues raise £300 and a further £10 is donated by the BBC who make a radio programme about the work of the BTP.
March 1961	“The Railway Policeman” by J.R. Whitbread was published. The first book on the history of Policing the Railways.
1962	The word “Commission” is dropped from the name of the force which becomes the British Transport Police.
8 th August 1963	A gang of 15 men hold up a mail train near Cheddington, Bedfordshire and steal £2.5 million in used banknotes. BTP assist with the investigation into “The Great Train Robbery” and the robbers are caught and convicted. As a result of the attack armed BTP travel on mail trains until 1973.
31 st August 1963	William Owen GAY, becomes Chief Constable, the only one to have joined the Force as a PC and worked his way up through the ranks. He was a prolific writer on legal subjects and had a column in the “Police Review” for many years.
November 1967	49 people killed at a derailment at Hither Green, South London.

December 1967	Tadworth closes for the site to be re-developed and training transferred to railway training schools at Beckenham and Windsor.
23 rd October 1970	A lorry carrying a propane gas cylinder strikes a bridge whilst entering St Andrews Dock, Hull. PC Keith WINTER attends but the vehicle explodes and the officer is killed.
21 st July 1971	Tadworth re-opened after planning permission on the site is not granted.
1 st April 1972	PC Alexander BOYD commended <i>“For courage and devotion to duty without regard to his safety in securing identification and disposal of an infernal machine (suitcase containing 381/4 lbs of gelignite and fitted with a timing device) on board a British Railways ship”</i>
March 1973	Orange Hi-Visibility Jackets are issued for the first time. Marked with the Force name they are essential when officers go “trackside”
1973	To improve communications between Force Headquarters and divisional stations, telex machines are installed across the country.
1973	The UK joins the Common Market. PC John PUGH is awarded “La Medaille de la Ville” by the Mayor of Dunkerque for services to the French people during his 25 years service at Dover Harbour.
1974	Chief Constable William Owen GAY retires and is replaced by Eric HASLEM O.B.E., Q.P.M., formerly a Deputy Chief Constable of the Kent Police.
1974	4 BTP Officers, all holders of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct medal are jailed for between 3 and 5 years for stealing goods in transit.
21 st November 1974	IRA bombs explode in two Birmingham Pubs near New Street Station. BTP Officers are first on the scene and the Police Office becomes an Incident Post. Enquiries at the Booking Office lead to six men being arrested by the BTP at Heysham Harbour having travelled from Birmingham, en-route for Ireland. In 1991 their convictions are overturned.
28 th February 1975	46 people killed and 74 injured when an Underground train crashes at Moorgate Station.
1976	“Uniform” Police cars are marked up with the force crest for the first time. (only vehicles working exclusively within docks are fitted with blue lights and two tone horns)
1976	A direct telephone link is fitted between the BTP “Information Room” at FHQ Park Royal and the Police Information Room at New Scotland Yard.
4 th March 1976	A bomb explodes on a train just outside Cannon Street Railway Station.
10 th August 1979	PCs Peter GOODCHILD and Kevin GORDON (Victoria) detain a German national, Hans KRAUSS on suspicion of having rabies. After staying at an isolation hospital he is eventually cleared.
1 st September 1979	The Computer system “PINS” goes on-line. The BTP are the first UK force to report and record Crimes on Computer.
1981	Force Headquarters moves from Park Royal to 15 – 17, Tavistock Place, London W.C.1. The building is the former Headquarters of Express Dairies.

1981	Kenneth OGRAM becomes the new Chief Constable of the BTP.
1982	PC Margaret LYALL (Glasgow) becomes the first female BTP Dog Handler.
29 th May 1985	34 Football Fans are killed when a wall collapses at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels. A contingent of BTP Officers from Liverpool, who at the request of the Belgian Police have accompanied the British fans, assist in the evacuation of supporters from the Ground.
25 th October 1985	PC Neil HARVEY of the BTP Nottingham beaten and nearly killed whilst patrolling a warehouse on his own at night. Due to his injuries, the officer was never able to resume police duty.
6 th April 1986	A man is found strangled and mutilated in a plate-layers cabin at Brixton. BTP Detectives investigate the murder and enquiries lead to Michael LUPO who is arrested and interviewed by DCI Dave FURNESS. He admits the murder and three others, one on Hungerford Railway Bridge.
7 th August 1986	A fight involving up to 150 football supporters causes over £20,000 of damage to the Koningen Beatrix, a North Sea Ferry. The ship is met by BTP at Harwich. 75 fans were removed and following an investigation many were convicted.
6 th December 1986	BTP gets its first direct access to the Police National Computer. (Previously access was via local Forces)
18 th November 1987	A fire on an escalator at Kings Cross Underground Station results in the death of 41 people including fire officers. Several BTP at the scene do heroic work and one, PC Stephen HANSON suffers severe burns.
12 th December 1988	34 people are killed following a collision south of Clapham Junction Station. 3 BTP Officers are on one of the trains but are uninjured. 120 BTP Officers attend the scene including ACC (Ops) Ian McGREGOR who arranges inter-agency meetings at the site. These form the basis of subsequent Major Incident protocol. An investigation show the crash was caused by faulty wiring in a signal.
January 1989	A vigilante group "The New York Guardian Angels" begin to patrol London Underground. Shortly afterward the London Transport Area of the force recruit a further 82 officers.
24 th April 1989	Desmond OBRIEN O.B.E., Q.P.M., becomes the new Chief Constable of the BTP
21 st December 1989	A terrorist bomb explodes in a Pan-Am 747 which lands in the Scottish town of Lockerbie. 4 Scottish BTP Dog Handlers attend the scene and recover the bodies of 23 passengers.
April 1991	The First edition of the BTP Staff newspaper "The Blue Line" is published. Edited by Simon LUBIN, it replaces the BTP Journal published since 1948.
July 1995	The MICC (Management Information and Control Centre) is opened in central London replacing the Force Communication Centre (Control Room) at Force Headquarters and the LTIR (London Transport Information Room)
January 1996	The PR-24 side handled baton is first issued to replace the Police Truncheon.

June 1996	Special Constables re-introduced to Police the Railways. (Paid Special constables had previously been used during war years)
July 1996	The “Euro96” Football Finals are held in the UK and the BTP are responsible for travelling passengers. Eurostar trains are patrolled and a BTP Office is set up at Lille Station in France.
6 th October 1997	David WILLIAMS Q.P.M., LL.B. becomes the new Chief Constable for the Force.
September 1997	The BTP Freephone number 0800-40-50-40 is launched.
19 th September 1997	Seven people are killed at the Southall Train Crash. A HOLMES incident room is set up to investigate its causes.
March 1999	Protective “Stab-Proof” vests issued to all operational Officers.
June 1999	The Midland-Metro, a tram system linking Birmingham and Wolverhampton starts operations. This is the first tram system to be policed by the BTP.
July 1999	The BTP Web-Site is launched.
5 th October 1999	31 people killed when the driver of a local train misses a signal and is hit by a Paddington bound express train. A HOLMES2 incident room (Operation Brodie) is set up, the first time it is used for a major disaster.
11 th May 2000	The 28km of the Croydon Tramlink is opened. It is policed by the BTP.
June/ July 2000	The Euro 2000 Football Championships take place in Belgium and Holland. For the first time the BTP mount a policing operation across three European Countries and following agreements BTP Officers are stationed at Lille and Brussels.
17 th October 2000	Four people are killed at the Hatfield Train Crash which was caused by a broken rail. An incident room (Operation Jasmine) is set up to investigate possible charges of Corporate Manslaughter.
December 2000	PC Matt PAYNE becomes the first BTP Officer to handle the accident investigation into a fatal Road Traffic Accident. A driver is prosecuted for death by dangerous driving after his car hits a Midland Metro tram.
28 th February 2001	The Selby Train Crash. A Land Rover driven by Gary HART comes of the M62, fouling the railway. It is hit by a passenger train which collides with a freight train killing 10 people. The Investigation (Operation Oasis) is headed by BTP Detective Superintendent Nick BRACKEN and HART is later convicted of causing death by Dangerous Driving.
1 st May 2001	Mr Ian JOHNSTON C.B.E. Q.P.M becomes the new Chief Constable for the British Transport Police.
October 2001	The London Transport Motor Cycle section is launched. Four Honda Pan-European 1100 machines are used to beat central London traffic to get to incidents.
11 th December 2001	British Transport Police jurisdiction extended in the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act to effectively cover all of England and Wales.

February 2002

A BTP Officer (Superintendent Nick BRACKEN) is called in by the Home Office as Senior Identification Officer for the investigation into a major fire at an Immigration Centre where inmates are believed to have died.

13th February 2002

PC Darren CRAIG (Stratford) uses CS spray to subdue a violent man at Forest Gate, London. This is the first time a BTP Officer has had to use this device.